

REMARKS

Claims 15-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15-35 are added. No new matter is added. Claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 4,279,683 to Landsness or DE 191831 747 A1 to Continental alone, or either of these references taken further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,380,384 to Tokunaga et al. (hereinafter "Tokunaga"). The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, JP-A-10-109506 to Otsu. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 are canceled by this Amendment. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Landsness, Continental, Tokunaga and Otsu are rendered moot.

None of the currently-applied references, alone or in combination, can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all the features recited in the pending claims. Landsness teaches a machine for winding a flat ribbon onto a tire carcass (col. 4, lines 4 and 5) and an apparatus for applying a flexible rubber-like strip to a green tire (col. 4, lines 39-40).

Continental teaches a process to make tires in two stages with intermediate vulcanization. Tire carcass and partial belt back are applied and vulcanized to a predetermined cross-section with reinforcements, in a mold (Abstract).

Tokunaga is directed to a method of forming a green tire that includes a process of setting bead wires at both ends of a cylindrical carcass ply on a first forming drum for forming a carcass body having bead portions: a process of positioning a BT band formed in a separate process over an outer peripheral portion of the carcass body, on the first forming drum and deforming of the carcass into a torroidal shape for incorporating the carcass body with the BT band; a process of mounting the carcass body incorporated with the BT band onto a second forming drum around which side rubbers are wound through bladders at positions corresponding to the bead portions at both the ends of the carcass ply while keeping the shape of the carcass body; and a process of expanding the bladders for press bonding the side rubbers on both the ends of the carcass body (col. 2, lines 15-30).

Otsu is directed to a pneumatic radial tire that is capable of improving a steering ability while maintaining a riding comfortableness and also capable of being formed precisely and easily (paragraph [0001]).

None of the currently-applied references can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 15-35. Claim 29 recites, for example, bead portions located on the carcass band are positioned at the same or wider axial spacing than portions of the carcass corresponding to the sidewalls, in the winding and joining step. None of the currently-applied references can reasonably be considered to have suggested this feature because (1) Continental and Otsu both teach a bead region that is positioned inward of the sidewall portions as opposed to the recited same or a wider axial spacing than the portions of the carcass corresponding to the sidewalls (see Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 of Continental and Otsu, respectively), and (2) Landsness merely teaches an improved method and apparatus for winding tread stock onto a tire by stretching a relatively thin strip of vulcanizable material as it is being applied to a rotating tire while the windings of the strip overlap each other in a stretched manner so as to provide a uniform contour at any cross-

section of the tire eliminating air pockets (Abstract). Landsness does not teach anything that can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, a bead region or a bead portion that is utilized while forming a tire.

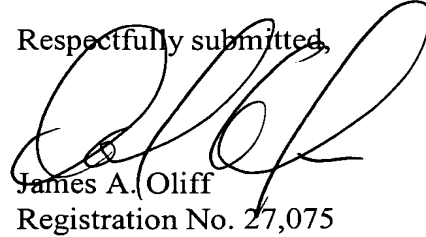
Tokunaga teaches, at col. 5, line 62 - col. 6, line 9, bead portion holding bodies that are positioned on both sides of the outer periphery holding body for holding the bead portions of the carcass body 6a and a bead portion holding body drive mechanism for approaching/separating the bead portion holding bodies on both the sides to or from each other symmetrically with respect to the outer periphery holding body. Tokunaga teaches in Figs. 2A-2H, a carcass body 6a that is integrally bonded with a tread 8 on the outer peripheral portion of a carcass ply 2 through a belt 7. Bead portions 5, in which bead wires 4 are each set, are formed on both the sides of the carcass ply 2. However, there is nothing in Tokunaga that can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, that the expansion of space between the bead portions in Tokunaga is done in conjunction with any winding and joining step. In fact, any expansion of the spacing between the bead portions in Tokunaga is done during a carrying step between a first forming drum 1 and a second forming drum 13.

Claims 15-35 are therefore distinguishable from the currently-applied references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: May 11, 2009

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